

## PSBU SDG 17.6 Policy: Academic and Research Collaborations

### Policy Statement

Preah Sihamoniraja Buddhist University (PSBU) recognises that academic collaboration is fundamental to advancing knowledge, fostering innovation, and enhancing educational quality. Through partnerships with institutions and networks around the world, PSBU aims to strengthen research capacity, enrich academic exchange, and contribute to sustainable global development.

### Policy Commitments

PSBU will:

- Develop strategic partnerships with universities, research institutions, and international academic networks to promote shared learning and cooperative advancement.
- Facilitate joint research initiatives, collaborative publications, and knowledge-sharing activities that address regional and global challenges.
- Promote student and faculty mobility through exchange programmes, international internships, and visiting scholar opportunities.
- Benchmark academic standards against recognised global best practice through active participation in and adherence to quality frameworks provided by ASIC, WES, INQAAHE, IAU, THE, IEAC, ACC, and AACSB.
- Leverage the partnership with EBS Global to expand international access, integrating global student cohorts into PSBU's academic ecosystem and fostering a culturally diverse and globally minded learning environment.

### Best Practices from ASEAN Universities

To guide implementation and ensure that PSBU's collaborations are effective, sustainable, and mutually beneficial, these best practices draw on examples from universities across ASEAN and related regional programmes.

| Best Practice              | Description & Examples                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Implications for PSBU                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thematic Research Clusters | Many ASEAN universities focus their collaborations around thematic clusters or priority areas (for example environment, health, agriculture, digital transformation). Programmes like the EU-ASEAN SCOPE-HE initiative establish university clusters to drive research and innovation across both regions. (ASEAN) | PSBU should identify a few thematic areas of strength (e.g. Buddhist studies, sustainable development, ICT, public health) and partner within those clusters to increase impact and leverage shared resources. |



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| <b>Use of Credit Transfer and Common Academic Standards</b>        | The ASEAN University Network (AUN) has developed frameworks (such as the ASEAN Credit Transfer System) to facilitate student mobility across ASEAN by recognising credits and aligning academic standards. ( <a href="http://aseanmediadirectory.com">aseanmediadirectory.com</a> )                                            | PSBU can engage in or adopt similar credit transfer arrangements with partner institutions to make student exchange smoother, encouraging more incoming and outgoing mobility.                                                                                         |
| <b>Hybrid and Virtual Collaboration Modes</b>                      | ASEAN institutions increasingly use virtual exchanges, hybrid teaching, joint online courses, and virtual labs to overcome geographic and logistical barriers. (ERIC)                                                                                                                                                          | PSBU should invest in robust digital infrastructure and online collaboration tools to support virtual components of partnerships—this reduces cost, increases flexibility, and allows more frequent engagements.                                                       |
| <b>Industry and Multi-Stakeholder Engagement</b>                   | Successful ASEAN universities often couple academic collaborations with industry partners, government bodies, NGOs or private sector for research, internships, and funding. The “Hexa Helix” model (academia, industry, government, community, etc.) is increasingly used, e.g. Universitas Airlangga’s collaborations. (AUN) | PSBU should include stakeholder mapping as part of partnership planning, engaging industry and community partners in research design, internship opportunities, and joint funding, to ensure relevance and sustainability.                                             |
| <b>Capacity Building through Regional Networks and Memberships</b> | Networks like AUN and SCOPE-HE provide training, forums, and grants to member universities which build capacity in research, quality assurance, internationalisation. (ASEAN)                                                                                                                                                  | PSBU should make active use of such networks for capacity-building: send staff to regional training, host regional workshops, apply for network grants, and use membership to deepen institutional reputation.                                                         |
| <b>Sustainability and Long-Term Engagement</b>                     | Partnerships are more successful when they are ongoing, with mutual benefit, clear governance, shared outcomes, and regular evaluation. Regional policy briefs emphasise that sustainable partnerships (not one-off projects) are more effective in meeting SDG goals. (ASEAN)                                                 | PSBU should establish clear MOUs or agreements with partners that define roles, responsibilities, quality assurance, evaluation, renewal, and exit strategies. Build in regular reviews and ensure resilience (e.g. financial, staffing) so partnerships can continue. |



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